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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/789,267	02/26/2004	Kurt Businger	12406/76	9395

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EXAMINER

CHEUNG, VICTOR

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

3709

SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD OF RESPONSE	MAIL DATE	DELIVERY MODE
3 MONTHS	01/23/2007	PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire 6 MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/789,267

Applicant(s)

BUSINGER ET AL.

Examiner

Victor Cheung

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 02/26/2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

DETAILED ACTION

Specification

1. Applicant is reminded of the proper language and format for an abstract of the disclosure.

The abstract should be in narrative form and generally limited to a single paragraph on a separate sheet within the range of 50 to 150 words. It is important that the abstract not exceed 150 words in length since the space provided for the abstract on the computer tape used by the printer is limited. The form and legal phraseology often used in patent claims, such as "means" and "said," should be avoided. The abstract should describe the disclosure sufficiently to assist readers in deciding whether there is a need for consulting the full patent text for details.

The language should be clear and concise and should not repeat information given in the title. It should avoid using phrases which can be implied, such as, "The disclosure concerns," "The disclosure defined by this invention," "The disclosure describes," etc.

2. The abstract of the disclosure is objected to because it is not written in narrative form. It appears to be written with language similar to that used in the claims. Correction is required. See MPEP § 608.01(b).

Claim Objections

3. Claims 1, 4, 5, 10, and 12 are objected to because of the following informalities:
 - Re Claim 1, Line 4; Claim 4, Line 4; Claim 5, Line 9; Claim 10, Line 8: "the front" should be --the front side--.
 - Re Claim 1, Line 6; Claim 5, Line 11: "the back" should be --the back side--.
 - Re Claim 12, Line 2: "accessible by opening the door handle assembly" should be --accessible by opening the door--.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

4. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 5 recites the limitation "coupled to the cam" in Line 11. However, it is unclear as to whether "the cam" refers to the "cam shaft" of Line 9 or the "cam follower" of Line 11. For this office action, it has been interpreted that the limitation read as --coupled to the cam shaft--.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

7. Claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Schulz (US Patent No. 3,159,994).

Re Claim 1: Schulz discloses a door handle assembly comprising a support plate having a front side and a back side, wherein an aperture is disposed in the support plate (Figs. 1-3); a handle pivotably arranged on the front side of the support plate (Fig. 1, Reference No. 32), wherein a cam

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shaft configured to be arranged in the aperture depends from the handle (Fig. 1 and 3, Reference Nos. 136, 140), and a cam follower disposed on the back of the support plate, coupled to the cam shaft (Fig. 10, Reference Nos. 86, 88, 90).

Re Claim 2: Schulz discloses that the door handle assembly is configured to transfer force from the handle to a latch in order to move the latch (Col. 1, Lines 18-21)

8. Claims 1-3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Nigro, Jr. et al. (US Patent No. 5,658,026).

Re Claim 1: Nigro, Jr. et al. disclose a door handle assembly comprising a support plate having a front side and a back side, wherein an aperture is disposed in the support plate (Fig. 1, Reference No. 10; Col. 1, Lines 34-43), a handle pivotably arranged on the front side of the support plate (Fig. 1, Reference No. 30; Col. 1, Lines 34-43), wherein a cam shaft configured to be arranged in the aperture depends from the handle (Fig. 2, Reference Nos. 20 and 35), and a cam follower disposed on the back of the support plate, coupled to the cam shaft (Fig. 3, Reference No. 60; Col. 2, Lines 15-19).

Re Claim 2: Nigro, Jr. et al. disclose that the door handle assembly is configured to transfer force from the handle to a latch in order to move the latch (Col. 1, Lines 34-43).

Re Claim 3: Nigro, Jr. et al. disclose a retaining device configured to retain the handle in a closed position (Figs. 3 and 5, Reference No. 85; Col. 1, Lines 42-43).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

9. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

10. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Schulz (US Patent No. 3,159,994) in view of Hemping (US Patent Application Publication US 2004/0169379).

Schulz teaches the limitations of independent Claim 1, as discussed above.

However, Schulz does not teach a retaining device configured to retain the handle in one of an open position and a closed position.

Hemping teaches a retaining housing (Fig. 15, Reference No. 152) configured to retain the handle in a set position (Page 5, Paragraph 63).

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to include a retaining device in the door handle assembly of Schulz. By retaining the door handle in a specific position, areas that are normally obstructed by the door handle can be accessed (if the handle requires maintenance, for example).

11. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nigro, Jr. et al. (US Patent No. 5,658,026) in view of Smolarski (US Patent No. 6,062,616).

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Nigro et al. teach the a door handle assembly comprising a support plate having a front side and a back side, wherein an aperture is disposed in the support plate (Fig. 1, Reference No. 10; Col. 1, Lines 34-43), a handle pivotably arranged on the front side of the support plate (Fig. 1, Reference No. 30; Col. 1, Lines 34-43), and a cam system for transferring force from the handle to a latch (Col. 3, Lines 19-25).

However, Nigro et al. do not teach a roller bearing arrangement depending from the handle, configured to transfer force form the handle to a latch in order to move the latch.

Smolarski teaches a roller bearing assembly depending from the handle (Figs. 1-3) configured to transfer force from the handle to a latch in order to move the latch (Col. 2, Lines 1-7).

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use a roller bearing arrangement in the door handle. Roller bearings are commonly used for the durability, fluidity, and reduced friction in movements.

12. Claims 5-9 and 14-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greenwood (US Patent No. 4,813,675) in view of Nigro, Jr. et al. (US Patent No. 5,658,026).

It is noted that the claimed limitations of the door handle assembly in Claims 5-7 are identical in scope to the door handle assembly of Claims 1-3, respectively, as already discussed above.

Re Claims 5-7 and 14-15: Greenwood teaches a gaming terminal comprising a housing (Fig. 1) and a door movable attached to the housing (Figs. 1-2, Reference No. 34B).

However, Greenwood does not teach that the door is secured by a latch disposed in the housing and that a door handle assembly is attached to one of the door and the housing.

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Nigro, Jr. et al. teach a door handle assembly comprising a support plate, a handle, a cam shaft, a cam follower, the cam system for transferring force from the handle to a latch, and a retaining device, as discussed above.

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attach the door handle assembly to the gaming terminal, allowing for controlled easy access in operating the door.

Re Claims 8 and 16: Greenwood also teaches that electronic components are disposed in the housing, the electronic components accessible by opening the door (Fig. 1, Reference No. 56).

Re Claim 9 and 17: Greenwood also teaches that the gaming terminal comprises a monitor and a money receptor (Money Receptor Fig. 1, Reference No. 26; Monitor Fig. 6, Reference No. 24).

13. Claims 10, 12, and 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Greenwood (US Patent No. 4,813,675) in view of Nigro, Jr. et al. (US Patent No. 5,658,026) and Smolarski (US Patent No. 6,062,616).

Re Claims 10-11: Greenwood teaches a gaming terminal comprising a housing (Fig. 1) and a door movable attached to the housing (Figs. 1-2, Reference No. 34B).

However, Greenwood does not teach a door handle assembly attached to one of the door and the housing, the door handle assembly including a support plate, a handle, and a roller bearing

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arrangement configured to transfer force from the handle to a door latch in the gaming terminal to one of open and close the door latch.

Nigro, Jr. et al., as modified by Smolarski, teach a door handle assembly comprising a support plate, a handle, a retaining device, and a roller bearing, configured to transfer force from the handle to a latch in order to operate the latch, as discussed in Claims 3 and 4 above.

Thus it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to attach the door handle assembly to the gaming terminal, allowing for controlled easy access in operating the door.

Re Claim 12: Greenwood also teaches that electronic components are disposed in the housing, the electronic components accessible by opening the door (Fig. 1, Reference No. 56).

Re Claim 13: Greenwood also teaches that the gaming terminal comprises a monitor and a money receptor (Money Receptor Fig. 1, Reference No. 26; Monitor Fig. 6, Reference No. 24).

Conclusion

14. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- Davis discloses a door knob comprising a roller bearing arrangement.
- Jans discloses a door latching and locking mechanism.

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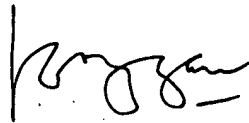
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Victor Cheung whose telephone number is (571) 270-1349. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs, 8-4:30, and every other Fri, 8-3:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jong-Suk (James) Lee can be reached on (571) 272-7044. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

VC

01/10/2007


KIM NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER